

FACT SHEET

LUMMI NATION WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions	Response
What is a Wellhead?	A wellhead is an opening in the ground such as a well or spring that allows access to underground water supplies known as aquifers.
What is the Lummi Nation Wellhead Protection Program?	The Lummi Nation Wellhead Protection Program is part of the Comprehensive Water Resources Management Program being implemented by the Lummi Water Resources Division. The Wellhead Protection Program is a proactive approach to prevent contamination of ground water resources by pollution and to reduce risks that the Lummi Nation's ground water resources will become impaired or otherwise unusable as the primary water supply for the Lummi Nation and Reservation residents.
What is the Purpose of the Lummi Nation Wellhead Protection Program?	The overall purpose of the Lummi Nation Wellhead Protection Program is to protect the ground water resources of the Lummi Reservation (Reservation) from contaminants, which may have an adverse effect on the health of persons or the integrity of the Lummi Nation's ground water resources.
Why is Wellhead Protection Important on the Lummi Reservation?	Wellhead Protection on the Lummi Reservation is important because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 95 percent of the Reservation residential water supply is pumped from local aquifers. • Due to the coastal location of the Reservation, ground water resources are particularly vulnerable to contamination from seawater intrusion. • Alternative water sources are more expensive to develop and can have a greater impact on the tribal fisheries resources. • The on-Reservation Salmon Hatchery program is dependent upon ground water. • An ample supply of good quality ground water is essential to serve the purposes of the Reservation as the permanent, economically viable homeland of the Lummi people.

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<p>What is being Done to Protect Reservation Ground Water?</p>	<p>The Water Resources Division of the Lummi Natural Resources Department is taking the following actions to protect the Reservation ground water resource:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and implementing the Lummi Nation Water Resources Protection Code (Title 17 of the Lummi Code of Laws) including developing and implementing regulations. • Monitoring water levels and water quality in Reservation wells. • Monitoring water use from the Reservation aquifers. • Supporting federal water rights negotiations and litigation. • Conducting a study to determine the boundaries of the Northern Lummi Aquifer. • Installing test wells to characterize the Reservation aquifers. • Conducting evaluations of alternative water supply sources. • Conducting spill response planning. • Decommissioning wells that are no longer in use. • Supporting solid waste clean-up efforts. • Evaluating land use permit applications for potential impacts on Reservation ground water.
<p>What Actions are Planned for the Reservation Wellhead Protection Program?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to collect information on the Reservation Aquifers. • Continue to decommission ground water wells that are no longer in use. • Update the Wellhead Protection Program technical background document to reflect new information and/or changing conditions. • Implement the settlement negotiated to resolve the federal ground water lawsuit regarding the Lummi Peninsula Aquifer (<i>United States, Lummi Nation v. Washington State Department of Ecology, et al</i>, Civil Action No. C01-0047Z (U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington)).